statements in Srinagar and in the Parliament. Prime Minister Jamali also condemned terrorism.

**US report on Indian weapons**

5044. SHRIUDAIPRATAPSINGH:
SHRISHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the US Director of Central Intelligence Report to U.S. Congress on weapons of mass destruction developed by India; and

(b) whether this concern of the US Government and its intelligence agencies on the development of India's nuclear capability and its missile system poses a threat to India's defence capability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. In a report to the U.S. Congress on "the acquisition of technology relating to weapons of mass destruction and advanced conventional munitions" for the period 01 January to 30 June 2002, released on 10 April 2003. the U.S. Director of Central Intelligence has conveyed a brief assessment, *inter alia,* of India's nuclear weapons and missiles programme.

(b) No.

**Consulate general office of Canada and USA in Punjab**

5045. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to open Consulate General Office of Canada and USA in Punjab for the convenience of a large number of people,

*(b)* if so. the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There is no proposal for opening of a U.S. Consulate General in the Punjab. However, in September 2001, Government of India approved the upgradation of the Canadian High Commission's Visa Collection Centre in Chandigarh to a full Consulate, on the basis of a request by the Government of Canada.

(b) and (c) The Canadian Visa Collection Centre currently has a staff of seven India-based employees whose positions will be transferred to the new

Consulate General. At present construction activity of the office is underway and additional staffing of both Canadian and India-based employees is expected to proceed gradually until the official opening of the Consulate General in early 2004.

**Relief materials to Iraq**

5046. DR. DASARINARAYANARAO:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have assessed the likely impact of US and allied forces attack on Iraq on the United Nations and NAM;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether Government propose to send relief materials such as medicines, food, clothing etc. to Iraq on humanitarian grounds; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, the war against Iraq, without the authorization of the UN Security Council, has shown the divisions and divergences among member-states of UN and also within NAM.

(c) and (d) In response to the UN emergency appeal, Government has announced a contribution of $20 million in cash and kind including 50,000MT of wheat. The Government is in contact with the relevant UN agencies for delivery of these materials.

**Visa for Chinese tourist groups**

5047. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has plans to grant visa for Chinese tourist groups within 24 hours if their visa papers are in order; and

(b) if so, the objective behind this special concession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) The Memorandum of Understanding signed between India's Department of Tourism and the National Tourism Administration of China in New Delhi on 8th December, 2002 requests the Indian